

PUBLIC HEARING of the Town Council held Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in Town Council Chambers, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville, for and within the Town of Burrillville.

PRESENT: Council President Nancy F. Binns, Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Margaret L. Dudley, Kevin D. Heitke, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: School Committee Members Dorothy Cardon, Joan Cote, Aaron Coutu and Raymond Trinqué; Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Pallotta; School Department Business Manager Robin Kimatian; Director of Assessment, Curriculum and Professional Development Lois Short and Director of Facilities David Fontes; Arthur R. Hurley, Chairman, Burrillville Budget Board

Relative to discussing the School Department Budget

NOTE: The public hearing was duly advertised in the local section of the Woonsocket Call on May 12, May 14 and May 16, 2012

1. Comments from the Budget Board

Arthur R. Hurley, Chairman, Burrillville Budget Board, commented on the School Department budget request, noting that the original

request had been revised by the School Department as the budget season progressed. Mr. Hurley discussed the impact of combining services and the lessening of No Child Left Behind requirements. Mr. Hurley commented on the ice rink staffing.

2. Comments from Raymond Trinque, Chairman, Burrillville School Committee

Raymond J. Trinque, Chairman of the Burrillville School Committee, noted the importance of cooperation and reviewed the School Committee's efforts related to health care, personnel contracts and the unfunded liability. Mr. Trinque commented on the Burrillville School Committee's record of staying within its budget.

3. Comments from Dr. Frank Pallotta, Superintendent of the Burrillville School Department

Dr. Frank Pallotta, Superintendent of the Burrillville School Department, made a PowerPoint presentation of the School Department budget request, a copy of which is on file with the record of the meeting. Dr. Pallotta urged that the proposed School Department budget be increased to avoid further staff reductions. Dr. Pallotta thanked the Town Manager and Town Council for past support.

Dr. Frank Pallotta responded to questions related to changes in the

No Child Left Behind laws, administrative staffing levels and teachers' salaries. There was discussion of expense related to students educated out-of-district, the impact of salary step increases, the tax levy cap, budget changes related to funding substitute teachers, unfunded liability and other post employment benefits, the cost of health insurance, the physical state of the school facilities, other line items expenses, educational and curriculum concepts, and ice rink fees and expenses.

4. Comments from Michael C. Wood, Town Manager

Michael C. Wood discussed the tax levy cap and the potential of exceeding that cap, with state approval. Mr. Wood commented on alternatives that might be considered to accommodate a greater budget request and cautioned about creating a structural deficit. The impact on the tax rate of increasing the budget was reviewed. Mr. Wood said that he would develop a recommendation to accommodate the Town Council's directive.

5. Public Comment

Note: Persons who wish to address the Council shall state their names and addresses

Robert Hulton of Eagle Peak Road recognized the budget work, commented on the economy and urged adoption of a budget that

would not impact taxpayers.

6. VOTED to close the hearing.

Motion by Councilor Wallace F. Lees. Seconded by Councilor Edward J. Blanchard. The vote was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Margaret L. Dudley, Kevin D. Heitke, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson.

7. Town Council deliberation

The Town Council discussed:

- a tax stabilization proposal involving the Town's debt reduction fund**
- scheduling an additional budget workshop**
- the tax cap rate and the tax cap levy and circumstances required to exceed the tax cap**
- the impact of tax increases on taxpayers**
- the impact on school staffing if the budget is not increased**

The Town Council agreed to an additional budget meeting, to be scheduled at the call of Council President Nancy F. Binns.

8. VOTED to adjourn at 8:34 P.M.

Motion by Councilor Wallace F. Lees. Seconded by Councilor Edward

J. Blanchard. The vote was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Margaret L. Dudley, Kevin D. Heitke, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson.

The Hearing was recorded.

Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk